

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is to provide students with classroom and real-life experiences designed to stimulate critical thought about the social environment and to prepare students for meaningful participation in society.

The Department offers both a major and an academic concentration in Sociology and a major in Criminal Justice. In addition, minors are available in Sociology, Criminal Justice, Substance Abuse, Medical Sociology, International Sociology, Gender Studies, and Community Development.

In terms of departmental assessment, *Research Methods* (Soc/CJ 3610) and the *Sociology* (Soc 4850) and *Criminal Justice* (CJ 4800) *Internship* courses were identified as significant, strategic curriculum points for consideration and evaluation.

The Department places emphasis on *applied sociology and criminal justice*. Many courses within the department allow students to extend the normal classroom learning setting by permitting real-life experience (fieldwork placement) opportunities in the community. Such experiences enhance students' employment possibilities upon graduation.

The purpose of the Sociology Program is to help the student study and understand the social world and how human beings come to think and act as they do. Students develop:

- (1) an understanding of how society is developed out of intricate patterns of human social organization, and
- (2) learn to create and use scientific tools of analysis, and (3) practice the application of scientific knowledge to the analysis of social problems and the transformation of society.

GOALS

Students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality
2. illustrate the role of theory and its application in sociology to social problems
3. critically read, analyze and reflect on text and dialogue from a variety of sources (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, government reports, statements of theory and policy, etc.) within the discipline of sociology
4. use technical skills in retrieving information from the internet and use computer software for data analysis

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Some general student learning objectives that directly apply to the goals of the program are:

- describe how sociology contributes to understanding human experiences
- apply your sociological imagination; the understanding of the intersection of the biography and history within social structures
- apply the major concepts, theory and research to everyday practice within the field
- demonstrate critical thinking skills as evidenced by the ability to evaluate existing statements of theory and policy, as well as research and evidence in the discipline of sociology
- demonstrate the ability to identify assumptions underlying theoretical arguments and particular research methodologies; and, understand alternative viewpoints on social scientific issues